Correspondence.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

You will find enclosed $1, for which please send your valuable paper to me at Keith, N. C. I consider it money well invested in order that the superintendent of the farm may be better prepared to keep up with the improved ideas on agriculture that are set forth each week in your columns, as many an article is worth to the thoughtful mind more than the cost of the paper.

We can no longer doubt that we will have to change our mode of farming in Eastern Carolina, since so many of the farm laborers (negroes) have become disinterested and are continually leaving. Our only hope seems to be in the small farm, diversified crops, well and economically cultivated.

Had we realized thirty years ago, that we, by nature in the way of soil and climate, have the garden spot (if not the garden) of the United States, and had abandoned the false pride, which was one of the blights that followed slavery, if rich and poor alike had been taught it was no disgrace to work, but a disgrace to remain ignorant and in idleness—had this policy peen pursued, now instead of seeing here and there improved farming, our entire country would be a garden spot where intelligence reigns in such force that reason would govern and not prejudice, and the political demagogue with his deception would have no following.

Another false idea that has hurt us was that the bright boy must have all the advantages at the University or some higher college, (many times at the sacrifice in the way of neglecting the education of the other children,) and when finished his collegiate course was made to believe that he would be throwing away his life unless he entered professional lines. This crowding of every branch that does not require manual labor to make a living, must have a tendency to impoverish either by failure or emigration. The result has been the South with all its natural advantages, instead of being in the lead, is far behind.

We have grown top-heavy with too many lawyers, etc, and not enough educated boys and girls on industrial lines. If they were, then they would see the importance of improving our many natural advantages and needs, the lack of which has caused the young men to flock to the cities to take clerkships at much smaller salaries than they could make on their farms. If they were trained industrially, hand and mind, it would enable them to determine the best mode of getting the proper results from the various soils, crops, etc. I have never been highly in favor of State aid to higher education to send out professions, when so many poor children were growing up in ignorance, though I do not believe the State could do better in the way of developing its own resources, as well as developing the mind of its people, than to add an industrial department to its free schools, certainly one in each township.

When this is done the men will not be found seeking clerkships, and so many young girls going to factories, in the cities without voice, but they will become masters of their own farms and homes, rightly the rulers of their country.

B. F. KEITH.

New Hanover Co., N. C.

MEMORIES OF OTHER DAYS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As I have read a few articles in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER on the ways and happenings of ye olden times, a few lines from my pen may not be amiss.

I am not an old man, but I can remember the changes that have taken place within the last thirty-five or forty years. I remember when farmers plowed with shop-made plows with shafts to them and six times in a row of corn every time that they went over it, and when a buggy was seldom seen at church on Sunday. The best and well-to-do people only could afford to own carriages. Horseback riding was very fashionable forty and fifty years ago. At church there could be seen horse blocks for ladies to mount and dismount their steeds on. Calico dresses were worn by the most fashionable ladies to church. The older people tell us that young ladies wore their old or work-day shoes and carried their Sunday shoes on their arms until they got in sight of the church; then they would sit on a log and put on their Sunday shoes.

We had to pay 12½ cents per yard for calico; 10 cents each for spool cotton, 25 cents and 30 cents per pound for green coffee; 12½ per pound for brown sugar and 20 cents for white—there was no granulated sugar then. The writer has paid 10 cents per box for parlor matches; you can buy a dozen boxes now for the same price. We paid $5 for a turning plow and 25 cents for plow points and 10 cents each for plow bolts; $7 and $8 for a barrel of flour. There were only about three grades of flour at that time. We had to pay $15, $20 and $25 for a nice suit of clothes, $2.50 $3 and $5 for a pair of Sunday shoes; $2 50 to $5 for a hat.

There were no sewing machines and all of our clothes were made by hand, as were our shoes and many other things. Our shoe strings, hame strings, axe helves, hoe helves, single-trees, etc., were made by hand and at home.

The first wagon that my father used after the writer was old enough to ride on one was made by his brother in his shop at home. It was made with wooden axles with skeins, all home made and all by one man; sold for about $50 to $75.

At this time great improvements have taken place and a great many conveniences have taken the place of things that have long been set aside as useless. If we had to return to those same old ruts, it would seem that we should starve to death.

RURALIST.

Warren Co., N. C.

THE LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY IN THE SOUTH.

IX.

Summer Management for the Dairy Cow.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Until a few years ago but little attention was given the dairy cow, either as to feed or care. No matter how profitable she was, when spring time came she was turned to the pasture field and there lived until all pasture was withered away by winter's approach If the summer pasture became brown and withered because of hot and dry weather, it was all the same—she must depend upon what she could pick up for her own maintenance and milk. Of course, under these conditions, no cow could show her real worth and merit, no matter how good a milk and butter producer she might be.

Where summer pasture is liable to be short, additional food should be provided. Many of us will have sufficient pasture until July. But during July and August, the milk flow drops off because the food supply is dry and insufficient. As a remedy for this, we suggest the planting of a small area to corn to be used as a soiling crop.

Our method at the college farm is to take five to ten acres, plow as early as we can, fertilize sufficiently to produce active growth and plant to any field variety of corn. We plant the rows about 44 inches apart and drop the grains from 3 to 6 inches apart in the rows. This thickness of planting insures a good growth of forage; of course, we are not after ears but an abundance of leaves and stalks, for food and succulence.

The feeding can be begun the first of July and continued until fall crops are ready to be fed We have always found it a most satisfactory method of providing summer forage for dairy cattle. An armful each day will supplement the pasture and pay many times the labor and trouble. We mention this plan at this time so that we may prepare for the summer field. The soil should be prepared early and corn planted more thickly than usual; by so doing a larger yield of green forage will be obtained A few days after the corn is planted, run over the soil with a light and straight-toothed harrow. Later, when the corn is an inch high, go over again with the harrow or weeder. If these two harrowings are given, the matter of cultivation will be simple. Cow peas can be sown on the soil, where the corn is first taken off and that remaining, so when corn is off, considerable pasture of cow peas will remain. If the reader has but few cows, but a small area is necessary.

CHARLES WM. BURKETT.

N. C. A. & M. College.

Sleep is sweet to the laboring man. —Bunyan.

ALLIANCE NOTES FROM SAMPSON AND CUMBERLAND.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

By invitation I visited Godwin Sub-Alliance, in this county, about two weeks ago. It was for a number of years the banner Sub. of the county in membership and, I believe, the banner in the State in the way of contributing to the State Business Agency fund. But a few years ago the brethren became careless and allowed their regular membership to become small. I found they had woke up; had more than trebled their membership during the last few months; elected them a business agent and were trading through our State Agency, as all of our brethren should.

It was also my pleasure to visit Bluff Alliance, in Sampson County, last week. The Sub. had been dormant for a number of years, but the former brethren, realizing the necessity and the benefits of the organization, recently came together and re-organized themselves. And we found them to be some of the best farmers of the section, too. While in the county, I visited and lectured at Newton Grove, a beautiful little country village near the Johnston line. A number of ladies and gentlemen came out to hear us. They have no Alliance there, but I was assured of their intention of re-organizing soon.

The Sampson County Alliance will meet with Salem Sub. on Thursday, the 10th of April. I expect to be present at their meeting.

J. C. BAIN.

Cumberland Co., N. C.

OUR RURAL SCHOOLS.

Their Deplorable Condition and How This May be Remedied.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Of the seven million children of school age in the Southern States more than six million live in sparsely settled districts or in towns of less than 2,000 inhabitants. Hence the rural schools are of first importance and should receive first consideration. We can never be an educated people until we have good rural schools and the country children attend them.

At present the average length of the annual term of these schools is something less than one hundred days. The average number of days of schooling for each child of school age is less than forty. The average for the entire country are fully fifty per cent. more than these, and for those of the most favored sections more than a hundred per cent. better. In one Southern State the average length of term of the schools is less than seventy days; the average attendance of children of school age is less than twenty five days. Only three hundred and fifty days of schooling to prepare the children of a people for life and citizenship in a great democratic republic!

Comparatively few of these rural schools have any libraries or any books except a few text books used by the children. Having been given the power to read, the children should be taught what to read and encouraged to cultivate the habit of reading good books. But this cannot be done when the children have no access to books either at school or at home.

Some of these schools are taught by most excellent teachers; but some of them are taught by young men and women whose education was finished in the first or second year of a country academy, and still more by teachers who have never had any schooling except that furnished at these same public schools. Most of these young men and women do not wish to teach any longer than may be necessary to make enough money to enable them to get in some other business The average school life of these teachers is not more than three years of one hundred days each. Most of these schools are taught in cheap, uncomfortable houses, with no adequate equipment, and with little pretense to beauty or sanitation The South is no longer poor as it was in the decades immediately succeeding the ravages of war. Building material is abundant in every State, and our men have strong arms to fell trees, prepare lumber and make brick. We should begin at once to build decent and comfortable school houses in every school district, and to equip them with the needed furniture and apparatus. These school houses are the homes of our children all the days they attend school, and we should see to it that they are made worthy.

P. P. C.

Knox Co., Tenn.

A NOTEWORTHY CASE.

Several months ago the Northern Securities Company was organized under the laws of New Jersey by men who owned a controlling interest in the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railway Companies. Its object announced in its charter, was to buy the stocks and bonds of railroad companies. Its method of acquiring the stocks of the two railway companies was to offer its own shares in exchange for them. The evident, and indeed the avowed, purpose of this transaction was to put the control of the two roads in the hands of one company.

The Governor of Minnesota, through which the two roads run parallel and in competition, believed that the Northern Securities Company was formed to do indirectly what the law said must not be done. Accordingly the Attorney-General of the State asked the Supreme Court of the United States for permission to enter suit to enjoin the Securities Company from carrying out its plan, citing the State law against the consolidation of competing railways as justification for the suit.

While the court was considering the petition, and before it had announced its decision, President Roosevelt instructed the United States Attorney-General, who had previously given an opinion that the combination was a violation of the Sherman anti trust law, to bring suit to dissolve "the merger effected through the exchange of shares of the two railroad companies."

Five days after that order was given, the Supreme Court, without entering into the merits of the controversy, denied the petition of the Attorney-General of Minnesota on the ground that it had no jurisdiction in the case as presented As soon as its decision was made known the Minnesota Legislature appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars to meet the expense of continuing the fight in another form.

Whatever may be the outcome of the litigation instigated by the State and the national authorities, the case bids fair to be famous in the history of the growth and development of American corporations. — Youth's Companion.

There is no question that the surest and sanest influence that can come into the life of a may or woman is that which is brought therein by a child —April Ladies' Home Journal.

SOMETIMES a cold settles in the bowels. The pain pierces like a lance. Get rid of it promptly by taking Perry Davis' Painkiller in sweetened water. There is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'. Refuse substitutes.